



A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE: At-a-Glance

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A PUBLICATION OF THE IDPH
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

DIVISION QUICK FACTS

IDPH Director: Governor Terry Branstad has appointed Dr. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD, as Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). With experience in both academic and practical medicine, as well as leadership roles in numerous medical and service organizations, Dr. Miller-Meeks understands the challenges of promoting and protecting the health of Iowans. Dr. Miller-Meeks completed her undergraduate degree in nursing at Texas Christian University, her master's degree in education from the University of Southern California, and her M.D. from the University of Texas Health Science Center before completing her specialization in ophthalmology. She served as the first woman president of the Iowa Medical Society, was the first woman on the faculty in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Iowa, and was a councilor for Iowa to the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Dr. Miller-Meeks is a 24-year veteran of United States Army, both active and reserve service, and retired after 24 years as a lieutenant colonel.

ICYD Report: The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) has released their 2011 Annual Report which highlights activities completed by the ICYD Council and the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC). ICYD Council members include leaders of 10 state agencies. The Council, supported by the Department of Human Rights, oversees SIYAC activities and has sought input from these youth leaders in the development of effective policies, practices, and programs for youth. SIYAC members, who range in age from 14-21 years old and reside in Iowa, foster communication with the Governor, General Assembly, and state and local policymakers regarding issues important to youth and families. The 2011 ICYD Annual Report can be accessed at www.icyd.org/index.html.

Welcome!: The Division of Behavioral Health welcomes Alagie Jatta (or Al, as he likes to be called) as our new HIV surveillance officer. Prior to coming to IDPH, Al served as an adjunct instructor of public health at Temple University in Philadelphia. He has also served as a District Public Health Officer in The Gambia, where he oversaw health education programs, surveillance of infectious diseases, including HIV, and vaccine management and administration. Al has a Master of Science in Epidemiology from Temple, a Higher National Diploma in Public Health from The Gambia College, and a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and Mathematics from the University of The Gambia.

SPF SIG Update: Iowa's Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) Strategic Plan was officially approved by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) on December 14. Approval of the Strategic Plan allows IDPH to move forward with the county funding process. Twenty-three counties have been identified as "highest need" related to the SPF SIG priorities and will be invited to participate in the SPF SIG process. A list of counties and information on the funding process can be found in the Strategic Plan, at www.idph.state.ia.us/spfsig/common/pdf/iowa_strategic_plan_revised_feb2011.pdf.

Director's Corner: Last month I referenced strategic planning that we are doing, particularly related to state and federal healthcare reform activities and our own addictions system transition efforts. You are invited to comment on the draft discussion papers we post at www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/sa_rosc.asp. If you have comments that don't fit with the posted discussion drafts, feel free to send me a message at kstone@idph.state.ia.us. Thanks, Kathy Stone

UPCOMING EVENTS

Paving the Way Through "The Stages of Change"
March 11. Peter Waitt Education Center,
800 5th Street, Sioux City. For more information contact
Angie at aanderson@jacksonrecovery.com.

SPF SIG Webinars

SPF SIG Overview on [Wed, Mar 16, 2011 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM CDT](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/sa_rosc.asp).

Getting Started: Details for the Comprehensive Substance Abuse Prevention Agencies and Their Partners in the 23

SPF SIG Counties on [Wed, Mar 23, 2011 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM CDT](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/sa_rosc.asp).

Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse

April 5-6. Des Moines Convention Center. For more information go to www.trainingresources.org.

Many Faces of Mental Illness

May 12. Sioux City Convention Center. For more information contact Kim Fischer-Culver/Siouxland Mental Health Center at 712-202-0173

For more information about the Division of Behavioral Health, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/bh

For questions related to "A Matter of Substance,"

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